Report of Committee on Restructuring the Cadre of Officers

2970. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered committee set up to examine the issue of restructuring the cadre of officers in the wake of Kargil operations has submitted its findings to the Government;

(b) whether a number of recommendations aimed at avoiding stagnation in different ranks are under consideration of the Government;

(c) whether the recommendations include deployment of senior army officers in Central Policy Organisations like BSF, CRPF and CISE; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following orders pertaining to the Non-Select Ranks and restructuring of officers cadre of Army have been issued:

(i) Grant of substantive ranks of Captain at 2 years, Major at 6 years and Lieutenant Colonel at 13 years of service.

(ii) Grant of rank of Colonel (Time Scale) on completion of 26 years of service.

(iii) Upgradation of 750 posts of Lieutenant Colonel in a phased manner with 400 posts having been upgraded in 2004 and 350 posts to be upgraded in 2005.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Acquisition of F-16 Fighter Aircraft

2971. DR. KARAN SINGH:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has agreed to provide F-16 aircrafts to both India and Pakistan;

(b) whether this was also discussed during Foreign Secretary's visit to India;

(c) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been reached;

(d) what are total F-16 that has offered to India and whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The United States (US) Administration has informed India of its intention to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. The US Administration has also conveyed that they have cleared US manufacturers to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Multi-Role Combat Aircraft from India. No decision has been taken by the Government of India in this regard.

Absorbing BGML employees by BEML

2972. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) would absorb employees of closed Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in Kolar Gold Fields (Karnataka);

(b) how many employees are being absorbed by the BEML and is there any proposal to appoint children of retired employees of BGML on humanitarian grounds;

(c) how many units of BGML were taken over by the BEML and what was the extent of land acquired; and

(d) what are the industrial activities BEML planned to carry out at the premises of BGML?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.